Graduates PAGES 9
Fall Schedule PAGES 3
Student Artwork PAGES 7

UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

Mat-Su Monitor

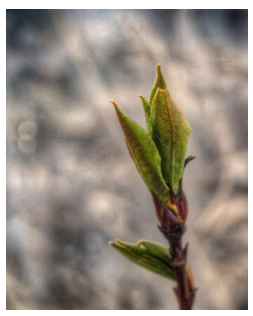
SUMMER 2022 VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

The Cottonwood Tree

By Rachel Goodall

The Black Cottonwood tree (*Populus trichocarpa*) is the largest hardwood tree in the Northwestern part of the United States as well in Alaska. In Southcentral

Alaska, the Denaina peoples pick the buds in February and March for medicinal salve. The salve is used to treat bug bites, sores, and pain. It can heal damaged skin.



Pick the swollen buds and place in oil (you can use olive oil). Store the jar for a month or so, then mix with beeswax on the stove, then pour into clean jars.

The salve is very effective on mosquito bites. It is safe to use on little children.

Southcentral Alaska has so many plants and trees used for natural remedies. Take time to find them out!

Get involved with STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Weekly Meetings
Face to face & ZOOM
for more information
email uaa_mscstudentgov@alaska.edu
or call (907) 745-9759

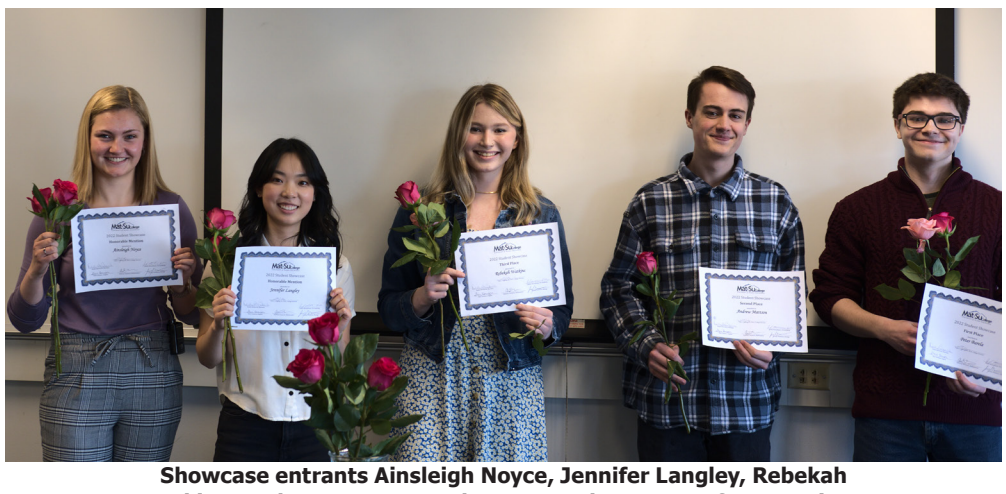
Step Up to the Plate!
Join the Mat-Su College softball team.
This coed call to action is open to students, faculty and staff, but keep in mind you will have to cover your own player registration fee ($100).
For more information, contact Jim at jrjerome@alaska.edu.

INDEX

Fall Schedule	3
Student Government	4
Student Art	5
Resources	6
Art	7
Dean & Chancellor Lists	8
Graduates	9
Clubs	10
Puzzles	12

Student Showcase

By Calvin Kemp



Showcase entrants Ainsleigh Noyce, Jennifer Langley, Rebekah Watkins, Andrew Mattson and Peter Barela compete for top prizes.

Mat-Su College held its annual Student Showcase event on Saturday, April 09. The first Showcase held since 2019 due to COVID-19, this was a welcome return to normalcy.

The Showcase is a competitive event in which students present a work that earned them an A grade. Students com-

See **SHOWCASE** page 13

"Something to call their own."

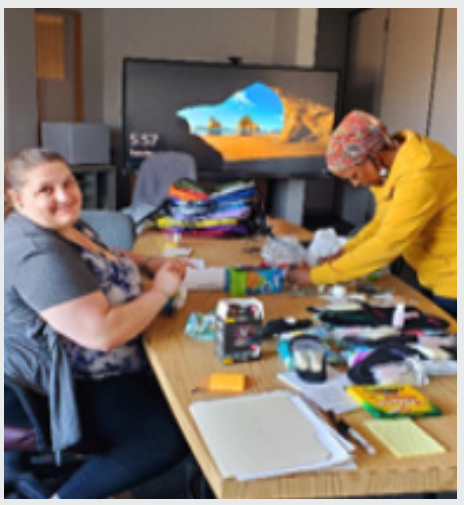
Project: Backpack 2022!

By Jana Engle

When Mat-Su College Human Services Practicum II students heard Professor Jana Engle announce an available opportunity to help the community, students did not hesitate to accept the challenge. A small, but mighty class, students Marcia Harrison, Megan Johnson, and Yadira Ramirez-Ruiz formulated a plan to work with Professor Engle to apply for the Mat-Su College Service-Learning grant to create "Project: Backpack 2022!"

"put a smile on a child's face by giving them a backpack full of things – something to call their own!"

Completing practicums at various Human Service



Students strategized and organized their Mat-Su College Service-Learning Project!

See **BACKPACKS** page 15

The Care and Feeding of a Veterinarian and Their Staff

By Dr. Judy Montalbano- Program Coordinator for the Veterinary Assisting program

I wanted to let everyone at MSC know just how excited I am about joining our campus community! The veterinary assisting program has been here since 2009 but I joined it this year. I'm happy to be able to play a role in sending new assistants out into our community veterinary clinics. We have restarted a veterinary club this year -- Arctic Dragons Veterinary Exploration Team (ADVET) -- to allow students to get some additional fun experiences within the veterinary world. We have had a slow start but will be planning more activities for next year. Contact me if you would like more information.

Currently the veterinary workforce faces severe labor shortages. While this is true in many industries, veterinary clinics have had increases in the number of pets seen, yet decreases in employee numbers.

There has never been a time with more opportunities in all aspects of veterinary medicine!

Salaries are rising, job openings are plentiful and veterinary assistants are taking on more responsibilities to help veterinary clinics able to handle the increased crush of patients.

The pandemic had the unexpected effect of increasing the number of pets in homes. People who could work from home felt it was an optimal time for adopting a pet. On the up side, animal shelters emptied out and it was actually hard to find an animal to adopt for a while! If you took the total number of veterinarians in the USA and divided the increased number of pets requiring care among them, it amounts to each veterinarian in the USA taking on an additional 1000 patients. That amounts to about 5 additional patients per day for each and every veterinarian in the USA!

Please encourage all those you know to tell the staff of your veterinary clinic how much you appreciate them. They love and perform best for rewards like cookies and treats and are more responsive to positive reinforcement than negative- just like the animals they work on!

Upcoming events:

May 5: Grades available in UAOnline.

May 6: Graduation ceremony at Glenn Massay Theater.

May 16: Start of 10-week summer session and first 5-week summer session.

June 23: Start of second 5-week summer session.

June 24: First 5-week session grades available in UAOnline.

August 4: Second 5-week session grades available in UAOnline.

August 22-25: Middle College Orientation.

August 29: Fall semester begins.

September 9: Add/drop deadline, 5 PM.

October 31: Spring 2023 class schedule available in UAOnline.

Financial aid workshops:

May 4, 9 AM - 10 AM
May 10, 9 AM - 10 AM
May 12, 3 PM - 4 PM
May 18, 9 AM - 10 AM
May 24, 9 AM - 10 AM
May 26, 3 PM - 4 PM
June 1, 9 AM - 10 AM
June 7, 9 AM - 10 AM
June 9, 3 PM - 4 PM
June 15, 9 AM - 10 AM
June 21, 9 AM - 10 AM
June 23, 3 PM - 4 PM
June 29, 9 AM - 10 AM

For more information on financial aid workshops, see https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-services/financial-aid/

A day in the life of a student

By Aiden Freeman

April fifth of 2022 was my 17th birthday. I was planning to hangout with a friend of mine, but that friend ended up being grounded. I tried hanging out with a different person, but that person claimed to be busy. I never celebrated my birthday before this, so I was ready to simply not do anything like every other year. A very good friend of mine from the college decided to invite me to a movie, paid for it and the snacks, and we had a really good time. The movie was Morbius, but we talked the whole time, so I don't remember any important details. Before the movie, when I went to my weekly GSA meeting on campus, I was surprised with a birthday party and some extra participants who don't normally go. There was music, a cake, snacks, and a wonderful group of people there contributing to me having a great birthday. We took pictures, joked around, and had a fantastic meeting. The group even sang to me. Before coming to the college most of my relationships were all very surface level and made it hard to celebrate in a meaningful and memorable way. The people I've met and grown close to since coming here have helped encourage me to do and be better. They're welcoming, kind, supportive, and constantly push me to keep reaching for my goals. I had a great birthday because of the friends I've made at the college. In fact, it was the best birthday I've ever had.

Introduction to the History of the Mat-Su Monitor

Catherine Crossett

EARLY YEARS

The first issue of the Mat-Su Monitor appeared in November 1978. Billed as the "Mat-Su Monitor Newsletter," a "monthly newsletter [of the] Matanuska-Susitna Community College," it was printed on a typewriter and ran to seven pages.

In its first years the paper was the work of Forrest "Woody" Hayes, a psychology instructor and counselor. With occasional small contributions from coworkers, Woody shared updates on campus events, course offerings, university news, and programs and legislation impacting students. A later historian of the Monitor characterized some of Woody's articles as "philosophical bits" (Menerey, 1995).

In the March 1980 issue of the Monitor, Woody called for student volunteers. At the same time, students voted to form the college's Student Government. It was perhaps only natural that this Student Government would take "over the writing, reproduction, & distribution of the MSCC Monitor (newsletter)" (Hayes, 1980).

The April 1980 issue has the first substantial contributions from students. One of these articles was a profile of Woody Hayes himself.

The next issue came out in the August 1980 and kicked off a new school year. The Monitor now had a proper cover page and a list of student contributors — two assistant editors and three technical assistants. The Monitor could rightly claim to be "printed monthly by the students of Mat-Su Community College."

With student contributions, the Monitor grew longer. One of the two December 1980 issues, for instance, was 17 pages of legal paper (the only issue to be printed on that unusual size).

In these early years, the Monitor lived up to its billing as a newsletter, albeit a very good one. Presumably, the Monitor was typewritten and mimeographed on campus. The content was high quality and abundant, but there was no greater objective than to entertain and inform other students.

PROFESSIONAL TURN

In the fall of 1984, the paper became the responsibility of Professor Elizabeth Fallon's English 212 "Writing for Newspapers." At the time, a local paper covered the change, writing that

"The paper has been an on-and-off college project for several years and Fallon hopes she can keep the paper in production. All the previous editions of the paper were mimeographed and this time the paper will be printed on newsprint. Another change in the tabloid will be the people who produce and run it.

"'Before it was run by volunteers from the student government, and now it's a credit course,' she noted. 'Every semester there will be a one credit course in writing for newspapers.'

"Currently six Mat-Su Community College students are in Fallon's newspaper class. The group's first effort should "hit the streets" in October ("College newspaper gets 'A' grade", 1984).

The course responsible for the Monitor is described in the 1985-1987 Mat-Su College catalog:

"English 112 is a learn-by-doing class. Since the students enrolled in Writing for Newspapers are responsible for producing the college newspaper (Mat-Su Monitor) once a month, instruction and practice is given in writing news and feature articles, interviewing, news photography, layout and design, and preparing copy for off-set printing."

Putting the Monitor under the direction of a credit course produced good results. It also helped that more funds were available (Menerey, 1995). For the first time, the paper appeared on newsprint in an 11"x17" format. The layout

See **HISTORY** page 15

The Mat-Su Monitor Team

Editors
Position Available

Faculty Advisor
Micah Muer

Layout Artist
Audrey Badger

Photographer
Position Available

Contributing Writers
Dawn Adamson
Flora Burstaghler
Aiden Freeman
Miles Gibson
Rachel Goodall
Angeli Kristovich

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The Monitor aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The Monitor seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the Monitor's weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the Monitor can be found at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the Monitor contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the Monitor article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

FALL 2022 SCHEDULE 03

ACCOUNTING
- Princ of Financial Acct I
- Princ of Financial Acct II
- Principles of Financial Acct
- Princ of Managerial Acct
- Income Tax Preparation
- Intro to Computerized Acct

ANTHROPOLOGY
- *Intro to Anthropology
- *Alaska Native Cultures
- *Emergence Complex Societies

ART
- Beginning Drawing
- Two-Dimensional Design
- Color Design
- *Art Appreciation
- Beginning Stained Glass
- Introduction to Art Education
- Beginning Watercolor
- Beginning Painting
- *History of Western Art I

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- *Business Foundations
- Intro to Real Estate Mgmt
- Survey of Finance
- Business Law I
- Marketing Practices
- Personal Selling
- Intro Stats-Bus & Econ

BIOLOGY
- *Introductory Biology
- *Introductory Biology Lab
- *Human Anatomy & Physiology I
- Human Anat & Phys I Lab
- *Human Anatomy & Physiology II
- Human Anat & Phys II Lab
- Intro Micro for Health Science
- Intro Microbiology/Hs Lab

CHEMISTRY
- Chem Skills & Problem Solving
- *Intro to General Chemis
- *Intro to Gen Chem Lab
- *General Chemistry I
- *General Chemistry I Lab
- *General Chemistry II
- *General Chemistry II Lab

COMMUNICATION
- *Fund Oral Communication
- *Public Speaking

COMPUTER & ELETRONIC TECHNOLOGY
- **CCNA 1**
- **CCNA 3**
- **CISCO CyberOps Associate**
- **Customer Service Fundamentals**
- **Individual Technical Project**
- **Industry Net Infrastructure**
- **Industry PC Config Essentials**
- **Industry Workplace Experience**
- **IT Project Management**
- **PC Operating Systems**
- **PC Technician Fundamentals**

ECONOMICS
- *Principles of Macroeconomics
- *Principles of Microeconomics

EMERGENCY SERVICES
- Emergency Medical Tech I
- Paramedicine I
- Clinical Rotation I
- Paramedic Internship 1

ENGLISH
- Introduction to Creative Writing

GEOGRAPHY
- *Physical Geography

GEOLOGY
- *Physical Geology
- *Physical Geology Lab

HEALTH CARE ASSISTING
- Certified Nurse Aide

HISTORY
- *East Asian Civil I
- *History of Alaska
- *History of U.S. I
- *History of U.S. II
- *Western Civilization I
- *Western Civilization II
- The Second World War

HEALTH SCIENCES
- Core Concepts in Health Science

HUMAN SERVICES
- History & Systems of HUMS
- Understanding Organization
- Human Services Practicum I

INFO SYS & DECISION SCIENCES
- Computer Concepts in Business

JUSTICE
- *Intro to Criminal Justice
- *Theories of Crime& Offending

LANGUAGES
- *Elementary ASL I
- *Elementary French I
- *Elementary Japanese I
- *Elementary Spanish I
- *Elementary Spanish II

LOGISTICS
- Logistics, Info Sys & Cust Service

MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS
- *Calculus I
- *Calculus II
- *Calculus III
- *Elementary Statistics
- Intermediate Algebra
- Ordinary Differential Equations

MEDICAL ASSISTING
- Medical Terminology
- Essentials of Human Disease
- Your Health & Social Services Career

MUSIC
- *Music Appreciation

PHILOSOPHY
- *Introduction to Logic
- *Introduction to Philosophy
- *Early Modern Philosophy
- *Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

PHYSICS
- *College Physics I
- *College Physics I Lab
- *General Physics I
- *General Physics I Lab
- General Physics I Problem Solving

POLITICAL SCIENCE
- *Intro to American Government
- *Intro to Political Science

PSYCHOLOGY
- *Introduction to Psychology
- *Lifespan Development

QUANTITATIVE SKILLS
- *College Algebra for Calculus
- *Trigonometry
- Elementary Algebra
- Essential Mathematics
- Prealgebra

REFRIGERATION & HEATING
- Refrig & AC I
- Elec Circuit Refrig & Heating

SOCIOLOGY
- *Introduction to Sociology

THEATER
- *Theatre Appreciation

UNIVERSITY STUDIES
- Strategies for College Success

VETERINARY ASSISTING
- Handling & Behavior: Sm An
- Intro to Veterinary Profession
- Introduction to Small Animals
- Veterinary Assistant Practicum
- Veterinary Office Procedures

WRITING
- Intro to College Writing
- *Writing Across Contexts
- Writing & Reading Strategies
- *Writing & the Professions
- *Writing & the Sciences

WOMEN STUDIES
- *Intro women & Gender Studies

*This list is subject to change. Visit matsu.alaska.edu and click "Course schedules" for the most current schedule. *Indicates class meets GER requirements*

Scholarships

-The UA Scholars deadline to apply for admissions is by May 1st of your senior year in high school to the UA campus of your choice. Apply for admissions at tinyurl.com/2p946nys.

-The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) and Alaska Education Grant (AEG) FAFSA deadline is June 30, 2022. Complete the FAFSA at tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry.

-On October 1st, 2022, the 2023/2024 FAFSA will open. Be sure to complete the application as early as possible to ensure you receive the maximum amount of awards available to you! Complete the FAFSA at tinyurl.com/2j69h9ry.

-On October 1st, 2022 University Foundation Scholarship Application will open. The deadline for the scholarship application is February 15th, 2023. Apply at tinyurl.com/ywdu6myt.

-Financial Aid Workshops

Have questions about financial aid? Join us for a complete walk-through of the entire financial aid process! The workshop will cover many topics, including but not limited to:

- The FAFSA application,
- Scholarships,
- Student loans,
- FAFSA Myths and Troubleshooting financial aid problems.

The workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation with Financial Aid Advisor Darla Budde. Students can ask questions after the presentation. Please visit tinyurl.com/ybmw2ckr for more information.

FAFSA Information and Tips

Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at https://fafsa.ed.gov/. When you fill out the FAFSA, you will need to put in a code for the school you want your information sent to. The school code for Mat-Su College is 011462, it is the same as UAA. The Academic year always runs from the Fall semester through the Summer semester.

The 2021-22 FAFSA application covers Fall 2021 through Summer 2022. The 2021-22 FAFSA will require you to submit your (and if applicable, your parents' or spouse's) 2019 tax information.

The 2022-23 FAFSA application covers Fall 2022 through Summer 2023. This application opened on October 1st, 2021, and will require you to submit your (and if applicable, your parents' or spouse's) 2020 tax information.

Apply as early as possible. Some funding is first come, first served so the earlier you apply, the more awards you can be considered for.

Try to use IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) provided to you in the FAFSA application. If you are eligible to use the IRS DRT, it will download your tax information directly from the IRS website into your FAFSA application. If you are chosen for the verification process and used the IRS DRT, it will cut down the process to a simple online worksheet.

The FAFSA applies for several awards with one application. You are applying for federal free money, federal student loans, certain state funded awards and some scholarships may even have as a requirement that you have filled the FAFSA out. Many families think they won't qualify for need-based aid because of their income level, but you'll never know if you don't try!

Double check your work as even simple errors, such as incorrectly spelled names or social security numbers, can cause delays.

It is very important to frequently check the email address you provide on your FAFSA application as you will be notified via email if you are selected for a process called verification. 1 in 3 FAFSA applications are selected at random for verification.

The FAFSA is an annual application. Finances and family situations change all the time, meaning your eligibility can, too so make sure to fill the application out as soon as possible every year.

SHREK CONTEST

The Mat-Su College student government did a Shrek-themed scavenger hunt for the college. The first two students to find the Shrek heads hidden around campus were given $30 gift cards to the campus cache. Aiden Freeman and Issiac Campbell were the lucky two.

A FEW WORDS FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

By Aiden Freeman and Joe Pavia Jones

AIDEN FREEMAN

My time as president of the Matanuska-Susitna College's student government was short lived, but was nonetheless an experience I greatly enjoyed and learned a lot from.

I am a student from the Mat-Su Middle College, so my previous experiences that I thought would make me a good fit were mostly at the high school level.

While I quickly found out that a lot more goes into this student government than the high school ones I had been exposed to, the people available on campus were kind, welcoming, and patient with me. There were times I had to step out of my comfort zone and do things I didn't know how to do, but there seemed to be an endless amount of support from those around me and involved, and this really helped push me to continue to do what was required of me as president.

I like to think of myself as a social person, and being president allowed me to more easily find excuses to talk with new people and form connections. People would stop by the student government office for help, advice, guidance, and simply just to talk and hangout.

One big obstacle I ran into was figuring out what to do for the campus. Without students letting student government know what they want to see on campus or what they'd like to see from student government, we didn't have a lot to go off of. Many students were online, and it was difficult to find ways to get the attention of students with covid restrictions being in play.

There was not a lot for us to do, but my involvement also provided me many opportunities to improve on my people skills, something I value very much.

When I was given the keys to the student government room, the first thing I realized was that it needed cleaning. Other students stopped by and helped get it better organized than it was.

I interviewed a couple students, and eventually decided on who I wanted to be my vice president. I later got a few friends of mine to come on as senators, and those senators were the ones that came up with the idea for the main thing we were able to plan during my time.

We had joked about doing a Shrek scavenger hunt while we were hanging out in the student government room, and I jokingly took notes. I

See **GOVERNMENT** page 15

Mat-Su College Business Professionals of America

By Aiden Freeman

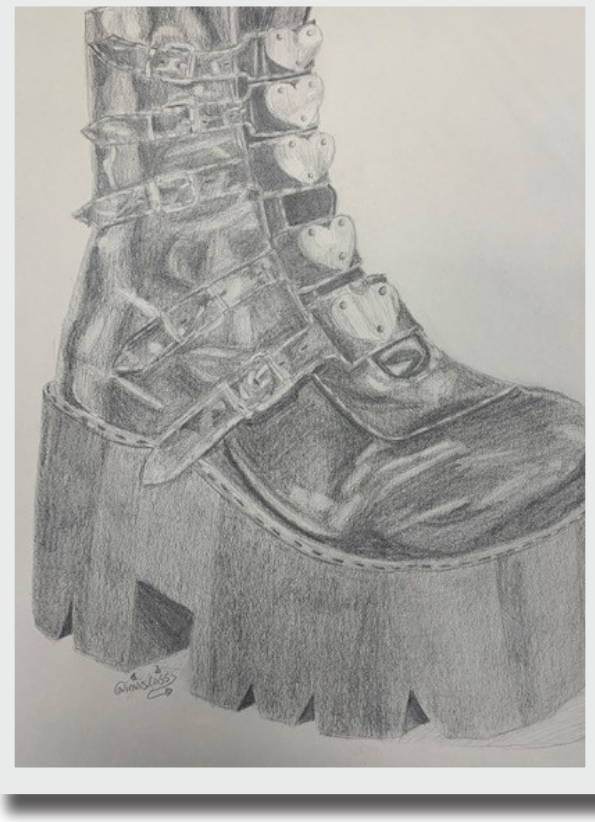
Hello! My name is Aiden Freeman, and I am a very involved student of the Mat-Su College (MSC). I participated in all of the active clubs, one of the inactive clubs, and student government during the fall and spring semesters of the 2021-2022 school year.

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is an organization that provides students with endless academic and professional opportunities. I started a chapter at the MSC because of those opportunities available through it.

Many people I've talked with about BPA focus on the business and professional parts of the name, but don't take the time to emphasize the fact that business can be applied to anything and professionalism does not by any means mean boring and serious. I have every intention of this chapter being one that gives its members every chance to take full advantage of what's available through the organization.

SPIRIT WEEK

In the past, student government has been in charge of spirit week for the Mat-Su College. This year, student government was a new group of people and Nick McDermott decided to take it on himself. Here are a few pictures of students participating in this years spirit week!



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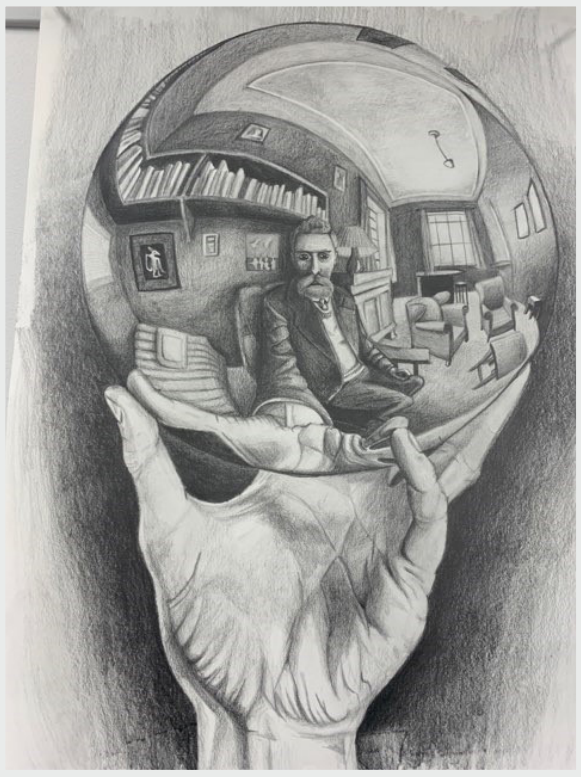
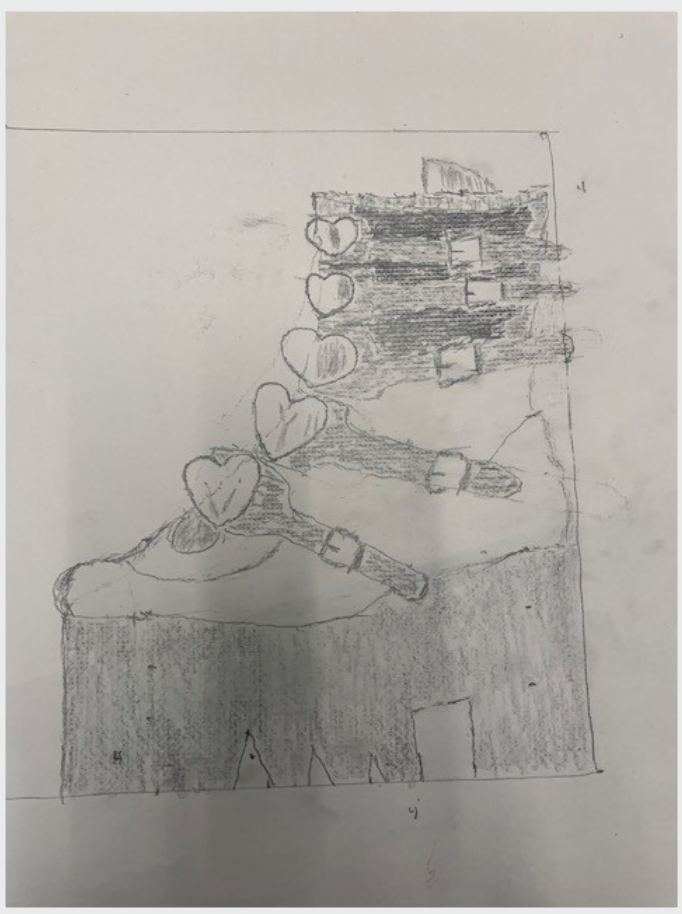


Melanie Clayton - Master copy

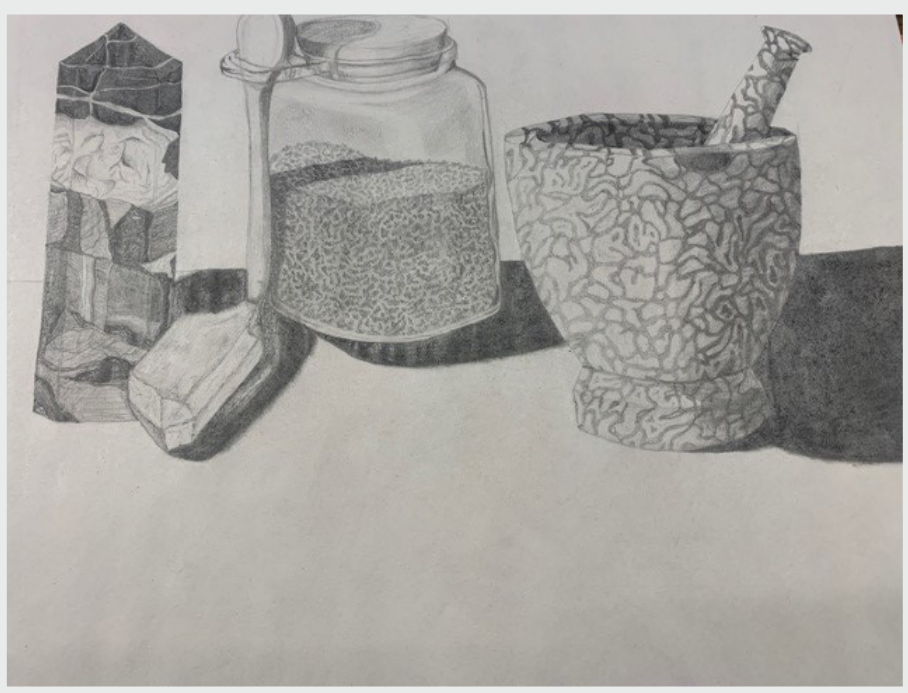
Case Twing - Master copy

Melanie Clayton

Roy Wahl



Roy Wahl



Claire Childs

Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center

OLB 121 — 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/

WRITING TUTORS

Monday - Friday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MATH TUTORS

Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Writing and math tutors available. Please check in the fall for their fall availability. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.

Additional Help available in the Learning Center:

- Rosetta Stone language software
- Computer stations
- Textbooks, videos and other resources

My Mental Health: Do I need Help?

First, determine how much your symptoms interfere with your daily life.

Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Feeling a little down
- Feeling down, but still able to do job, schoolwork, or housework
- Some trouble sleeping
- Feeling down, but still able to take care of yourself or take care of others

Do I have severe symptoms that have lasted 2 weeks or more?

- Difficulty sleeping
- Appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes
- Struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of mood
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable
- Unable to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities
- Thoughts of death or self-harm

If so, here are some self-care activities that may help:

- Exercising (e.g., aerobics, yoga)
- Engaging in social contact (virtual or in person)
- Getting adequate sleep on a regular schedule
- Eating Healthy
- Talking to a trusted friend or family member
- Practicing meditation, relaxation, and mindfulness

If the symptom(s) do not improve or seem to be worsening despite self-care efforts, talk to your health care provider.

Seek professional help:

- Psychotherapy (talk-therapy)—virtual or in person; individual, group or family
- Medications
- Brain stimulation therapies
- For help finding treatment, visit www.nimh.nih.gov/findhelp.

If you are in a crisis, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).

Get help with your homework!

Writing help

Mat-Su College will have a writing tutor in the 2022-2023 school year. Register using https://www2.registerblast.com/matsu/Exam/List

The Monitor hears MSC students will also be helped if they turn to the UAA Learning Commons or UAF Writing Center:

- **UAA Learning Commons: https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/community-and-technical-college/departments/learning-commons/**
- **UAF writing center: https://www.uaf.edu/english/student-resources/writing-center/index.php**

Math help

A math tutor will also be available come fall semester. Check the signs outside the tutoring center, or the college website, for availability.

Live homework help

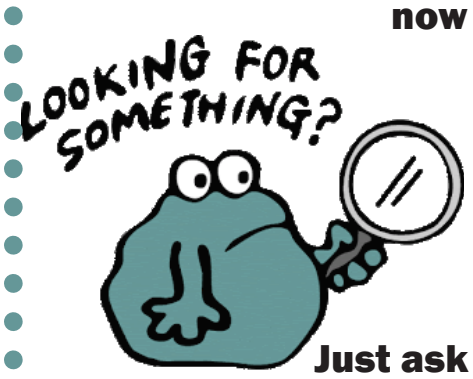
If you can't fit a Mat-Su College tutor into your schedule, there are tutors available through the Live Homework Help service that is provided by the Alaska State Library. Tutoring is available in writing and math, but also many other subjects (chemistry, biology, geography, Spanish, etc.).

The service is totally free and requires no registration. It is all online. Help is available from 8 AM to 2 AM on weekdays and noon to 2 AM on weekends. The service is available 361 days a year.

Go to https://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework/ and click "Go to Live Homework Help" to get started.

Campus LOST & FOUND now housed at the library

Missing your ...



- **Keys?**
- **Phone?**
- **Jacket?**
- **Headphones?**
- **Flash drive?**
- **Other item?**

Just ask at the library desk -- your item might have been found!

Meet Professor Claudia Jones

Being a great mom and a great woman may seem to have some overlap -- but being recognized as both, in the same year and by different well-known institutions is certainly a noteworthy achievement. One that can be claimed by Mat-Su College's (MSC) own Professor Claudia Jones.

Claudia grew in Veracruz, Mexico and moved to the United State in 2013 after marrying her husband. She then started teaching Spanish at MSC in 2016.

Last month, Claudia was picked as the "2022 Alaska Mother of the Year" by American Mothers Inc., a national non-profit honoring mothers since 1935. She and the other top mothers from around the country will be recognized during the 87th National Convention of American Mothers this April. At that time, one of the honorees, hopefully Claudia, will be named the National Mother of the Year.

With a flip of the calendar page from February to March came Claudia's next accolade, becoming one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year. According to the national news agency, they picked Claudia because of her extraordinary work to create online educational resources for Spanish-speaking women, particularly in Latin America, who United Nations research shows experience some of the world's highest levels of income inequality.

The nonprofit program Claudia created, MORE Latinoamerica, has helped more than 15,000 people in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, México, Spain and Venezuela.

Claudia told USA Today, "Personally, if I had not had an education, it would have been very difficult for me to overcome the adversities in my life. But I had those opportunities because I grew up in an upper middle-class family in Mexico -- a lot of women don't, and I wanted to give others the same resources I had."

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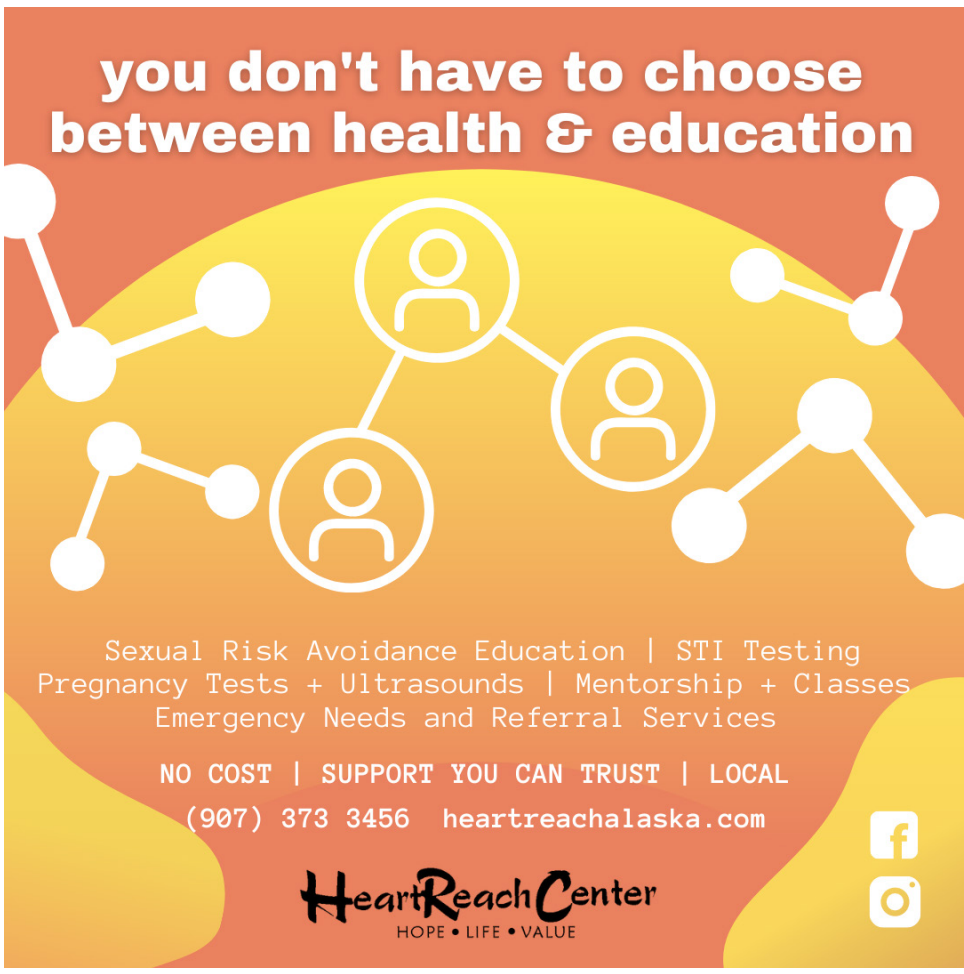
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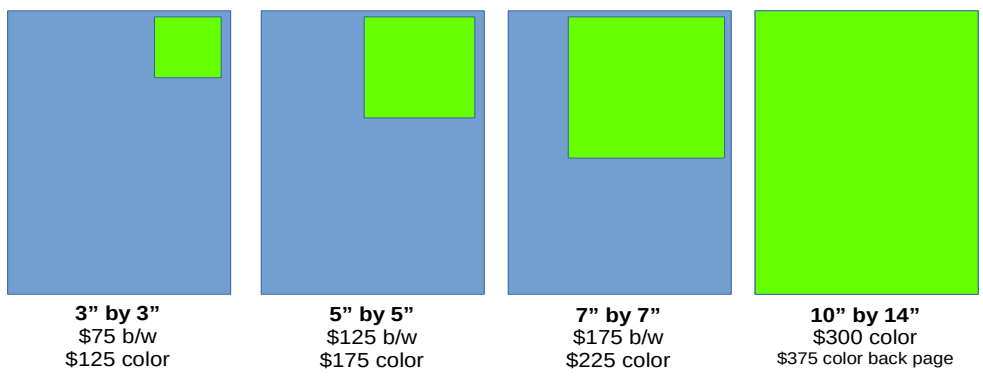

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Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Congratulations to our 2022 graduates!

This list is current as of April 25, 2022. It represents students who graduated in fall 2021, spring 2022, and summer 2022.

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Kyla Gauthier

Mykhailo Sazhniev

John Stiner

Justin Zimin

Computer Systems and Network Technology

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Gilberto Ramos Jr.

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General program

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Kasiana Anderson

Andrea Ayers

Aria Beames

Hannah Bissett

Alexandria Burks-Dakutak

Brooke Compton

Madeline Davis

Paige Duckworth

Courtney Duffin

Moriah Dulinsky

Elizabeth Edwards

Elizabeth Evans

Brock Grant

Kolten Greathouse

Morgan Groendyke

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Kadi Judd

Vitaliya Kulakevich

Amber Larson

Rishaun Gerome Lucero

Nicholas Maness

Ryker Martin

Andrew Mattson

David McCreary

Micaiah Michaud

Logan Miller

Daniel Miller

Rylee Olympic

Emily Owens

Eric Rangel

Naneth Rhoads

Jonathon Royce

William Schoolfield

Samuel Snively

James Sucher

Janice Tanner

Matthew Wagner

Krista Wood

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Jeremy Lee

Brennen Major

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Lucas Baugus

Cody Fritz

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Aimee Deloach

Katelynn House

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Gay Straight Alliance

By Aiden Freeman

The Gay Straight Alliance of the Mat-Su College was the most active club on campus during the 2021-2022 year. We had weekly meetings, monthly events, and the members of the club would even hangout and have unofficial meetings on other days when they had the time and wanted to. We did our best to create a welcoming, accepting, and overall safe environment where people could feel comfortable to express themselves however they needed to. We also created a space to reach out to others for support.

During our meetings we would have part of the meeting be business and the rest of it be fun and relaxing. The people in the club grew closer through working with each other on the many projects we had and were given opportunities to step out of their comfort zones on multiple occasions. Both of these allowed our members to experience forms of growth they might not have experienced otherwise.

Alaska Native Cultures Club
Mat-Su college

We meet **every Thursday** 11:50am to 12:50pm **FSM 201** . *Visit the* STUDENT CLUB CALENDAR on the Mat-Su website: https://matsu.alaska.edu or e-mail us at MatSuANCC@gmail.com

Gay Straight Alliance Club

GSA
Gay Straight Alliance

GSA is here to promote tolerance and acceptance throughout the school community and to provide a safe non-judgmental space as a support network for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and straight youth who share a common vision of social equality. This club may include movies with discussions, group lunches, activities, service projects on campus and in the community, and working with LGBTQIA groups like the Queens Guard.

MEETING TIMES:
THURSDAYS
2:00 - 3:00
FSM 107 &
on ZOOM

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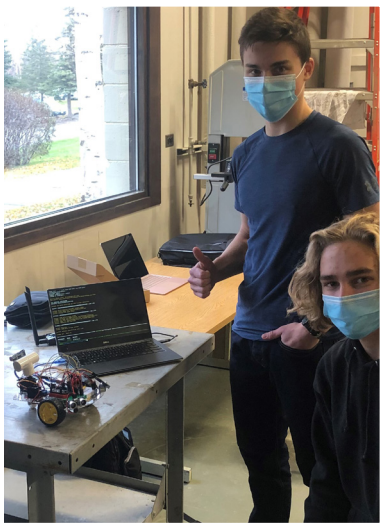
Now taking submissions: Next deadline for entries: fall 2022!

Robotics Club



Mondays,
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays
10 AM to 12 PM
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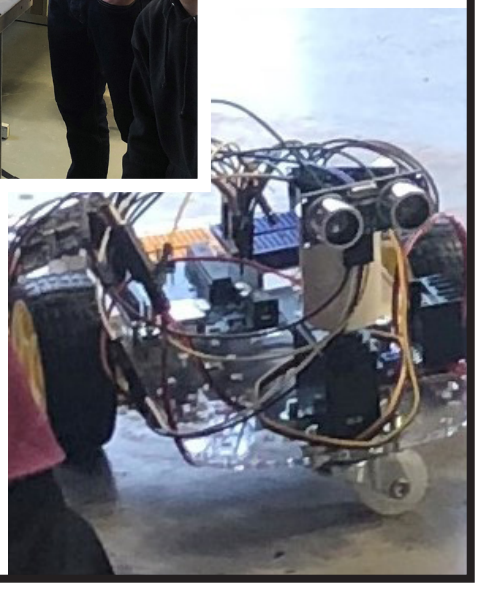


YOUR CLUB'S AD COULD BE HERE!

CONTACT THE MAT-SU MONITOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

2022 SOLAR DECATHLON TEAM UAA!

By Dawn Adamson

"We don't inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children." This quote has been improperly attributed to Chief Seattle, but whatever the source, it is truly relevant for our day and age.

The U. S. Department of Energy realized this fact long ago; in 2001, they sponsored the first Solar Decathlon, a collegiate contest designed to provide some of our nation's best and brightest minds with the opportunity to participate in innovative approaches to the design of buildings that run on sustainable energy technology. (There is now an international competition as well.) The competition winners' designs are used to fuel ideas for mainstream applications of the sustainable energy systems which can assist us in leaving the world a better place for future generations; additionally, it's a great way to meet other like-minded people and participate in a fun, fascinating, hands-on learning activity!

Fortunately for UAA, Dr. Getu Hailu, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage College of Engineering, is sponsoring a team to compete in the 2022 Solar Decathlon. All UAA students, including Mat-Su College and Alaska Middle College students, are eligible and welcome to participate, regardless of major; so join Team UAA and don't miss out on this amazing opportunity!

The chosen team of UAA students will work on a building project in one of six categories: Residential (new, retrofit, or attached housing) and Commercial (multifamily, office, or education building). This is a two-year project and will consist of designing and building an energy efficient building, including renewable energy technologies such as solar photovoltaics. Designs will be judged on ten different aspects (which is why it's called a Decathlon.) The top 20 teams will travel to Boulder, Colorado in April, 2022 to present their designs. (We sincerely hope Team UAA makes it into the top 20!)

Need a senior project or some independent study credits? Talk to your professors about designing your coursework around the Solar Decathlon; you can be part of an amazing team, do great things for the world and earn your degree all at the same time! The two-year run time means students will be phasing in and out of the project; any student can join at any time which gives lots of flexibility for planning purposes!

Students can participate in different stages of the process, i.e., the design phase (Design Team), building phase (Build Team), and marketing phase (Marketing Team). Participation in the project for one or more semesters is possible. And, here's the best part: whether you are a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, you can contribute to the project! All students from different colleges are welcome; no matter what your major, or no major at all, we have a job for you! Students participating in the competition not only benefit from the technical knowledge inherent in the design and build aspects but also gain highly valuable soft skills involving teamwork and project management, of the sort that can only come from involvement in a project of this scope. Contact Dr. Hailu at ghailu@alaska.edu to reserve your place on the Solar Decathlon Team UAA!

April Movie Night

By Aiden Freeman

The college's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club put on a movie night for students, staff, and the public. The movie shown was *Love, Simon*. Twenty-nine people showed up. Not only was the success of the movie night more than anyone could have hoped for, but it brought in more people than some of the pre-COVID movie nights.

Snacks and water were available before the movie started. Snacks were also available during the snack and bathroom break that happened in the middle of the movie, as requested by the advisor of the club.

From what I could tell everyone had a good time and was happy to finally see something happening on campus. I really enjoyed the movie. I heard a lot about it when it came out, but never took the time to watch it. I liked how it appealed to many emotions and audiences and did a great job of bringing focus to every day issues that are so commonly overlooked. GSA did a wonderful job putting the movie together and I'm happy they chose the movie they did. I look forward to seeing what happens in the future.

March Game Night

By Aiden Freeman

The Mat-Su College Gay Straight Alliance put on a game night on the 24th of March. For the game night, pizzas, snacks, water, and games were provided. About 10 people showed up. The event brought the members closer to each other. The success of this event encouraged GSA to do more events.

While the event was a success by how we -- the rest of the club and myself -- defined success, there were issues prior to actually making it happen. This being the first event we put on, some delegated responsibilities and tasks were misunderstood. This led to us not advertising and to some late arrivals. Regardless of the issues we faced, we still did our best to have as great a night as we could.

Not only do I believe this to be a wonderful example of the resiliency and drive the club as a whole has, but it also provided learning opportunities that can be applied to many daily situations, and as a result made us better and stronger people.

The success of this event has encouraged GSA to do more events. Stay tuned.

GSA club leads Earth Day campus cleanup

On April 22, Earth Day, the Mat-Su College Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) led a campus cleanup. From 4-6 PM, a half dozen GSA members, their advisor Joey Pavia, and Mat-Su College physical plant staff worked to clean up campus. They had plenty to do. The January wind storms littered campus with exterior bits blown off of the Glenn Massay Theater and the water tower.

Club Experiences

By Aiden Freeman

During my time as Student Government president, there was a list of clubs that wanted to get going. Most of them didn't have enough members, so I happily added myself to their lists of members as a club representative. A club's representative reports to Student Government on the club's activities.

I joined the veterinary, robotics, Alaska Native Cultures, and Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs. I also started the Business Professionals of America club. Being involved with clubs made me look forward to being on campus. I met new people, made friends, and learned a lot about myself. My involvement with clubs encouraged me to not procrastinate so much in my classes. Less procrastination led to me having more time to put towards doing things I enjoy doing.

What clubs were able to do, and club recruitment, was limited because of Covid restrictions. The active clubs did their best with what they had. Some clubs went on field trips, one worked on building robots, and another focused on building a safe and inclusive environment.

I really enjoyed how the clubs brought people together and encouraged those involved to step out of their comfort zone, and ultimately grow to be better people.

Robotics I didn't really participate in, but it was always interesting to hear what they'd been working on, and I was always happy to speak for them if they weren't able to make it to the Student Government meetings.

Veterinary had a hard time establishing a concrete meeting schedule because of everyone's different schedules, but many things were planned, and the president and advisor did an excellent job making the club the best it could be.

I joined Alaska Native Cultures Club because of my Tlingit and Haida heritage, and the advisors were very welcoming and kind towards me.

GSA was my favorite club. I was most involved with it and ended up being the club secretary. I was always excited to go to meetings and participate in the events we planned. I like to consider myself a social and outgoing person who talks with most of the people around me, but this club brought me closer to people I otherwise wouldn't very likely have been as close with otherwise. The people that would come to GSA were all very supportive and amazing people, and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to build relationships with each of them.

Business Professionals of America was a club I started towards the end of the spring semester. I started this club for a list of reasons. This club has the potential to provide the student members with so many academic and professional opportunities. Scholarships, awards, certifications, networking, and improving intrapersonal and interpersonal skills are some of the many benefits a student can receive from participating in this club and organization. This semester was spent working on building a foundation for the following year so that we are as prepared as we can be for all that comes our way.

My Plan

By Angeli Kristovich

College with a newborn baby?

Sure!

As we all know, life happens. A part of my beautiful life's story is that I am having a baby in the middle of my journey towards my first college degree. I am pursuing a business degree and I currently have classes left until I graduate. Now I work a full-time job, and I am seven months pregnant. I am currently taking a break from my classes because my work life has been extremely busy lately. My husband and I bought a pizza shop on KGB Road in February of 2020, and it is called KGB Pizza (not to be confused with a different pizza shop named Knik Pizza).

At first business was slow, then March of 2020 brought covid with it and business slowed down even more. At that time, I was working while taking 3 classes and it was manageable. Challenging, but manageable. However, as time progressed business has picked up, and it has been difficult finding employees whose schedules are open enough to be able work a job, so we have been running this pizza shop with only four people; two cooks (one of them is my husband), a delivery driver, and a phone person/hostess (me).

In April 2021 I learned that I was pregnant. I was taking two classes and working fulltime. With the pressures of deadlines for coursework and the hormones of pregnancy, I had a really hard time keeping up, so I decided to take a break from classes so that I can just work until I have my baby in the spring and I plan to enroll in the following fall semester in one class. I chose to do this because this is my first pregnancy and I want to be able to enjoy it as much as I can and truly take in all that comes with it.

I think taking one class in the first months of being a new mother is a safe plan because one of the great things about Mat-Su College is that the professors will work with students by making necessary accommodations that will help me continue with my education journey. Some people take too many classes

because they just want to get their degree and be done with it. At first, I admit that I was rushing through my classes, but then I realized that I needed to slow down to make sure that I am retaining what I am being taught, instead of just memorizing what I needed to memorize a few days before test days. That sounds awful say but it was true. I didn't come to this realization until I took fewer classes and I noticed that I was able to have better focus in class and I was able to devote more time to each subject and homework. Once I experienced both extremes of too many classes versus one or two classes max, I knew that taking my time works best for me. We will see how it all works out after baby gets here, wish me luck!

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, submit it anonymous at https://matsu.alaska.edu/monitor .

Q. Dear Sophia: Has the modern world put too much emphasis on fact and science, so that we have lost the power to imagine and believe in our own cultural tales? Have we lost beauty in the pursuit of the "truth?" We can no longer gaze at a seal and imagine it can change shape into human form. We can no longer look into the dark and see what's symbolically there. Is this a loss or a gain?

A. Dear Friend: Belief is as unique as the individual, what one chooses to believe is a personal choice. People believe that the world is flat, the moon landing was filmed in Arizona, and there is no such thing as dragons. Who can say what you believe is right or wrong? Only you.

Q. Dear Sophia: How much do college application essays matter? I'm sweating about writing them so much that I haven't written them and the college deadlines are so soon. Do we just write them and send them in, or have everyone we come across critique our writing all the way down to each word's purpose of the essay???

A. Dear Friend: If done right, your scholarship essay is a window into your world. Your life and experiences are interesting and important! Your essay should give the readers a sense of you as a multidimensional person, more than what just your test scores and demographic information alone can reflect. Letting scholarship committees get to know you will also help make the case that you are the most qualified candidate for the scholarship.

It's a good idea to hand off your work to someone else for feedback, and be open to their suggestions. If you don't feel comfortable doing that, print a copy and read it out loud, you will catch errors easier that way. You can also email the financial aid advisors at Mat-Su College they can edit for content and grammar. Chelsea Cooley at cmcooley@alaska.edu or Darla Budde at dmbudde@alaska.edu.

Q. Dear Sophia: I feel like I'm in a rut, and every time I try to get out of the rut by implementing change, I back out. What should I do?

A. Dear Friend: Self-improvement takes effort and time. Here are some pretty simple, no-fail tips:

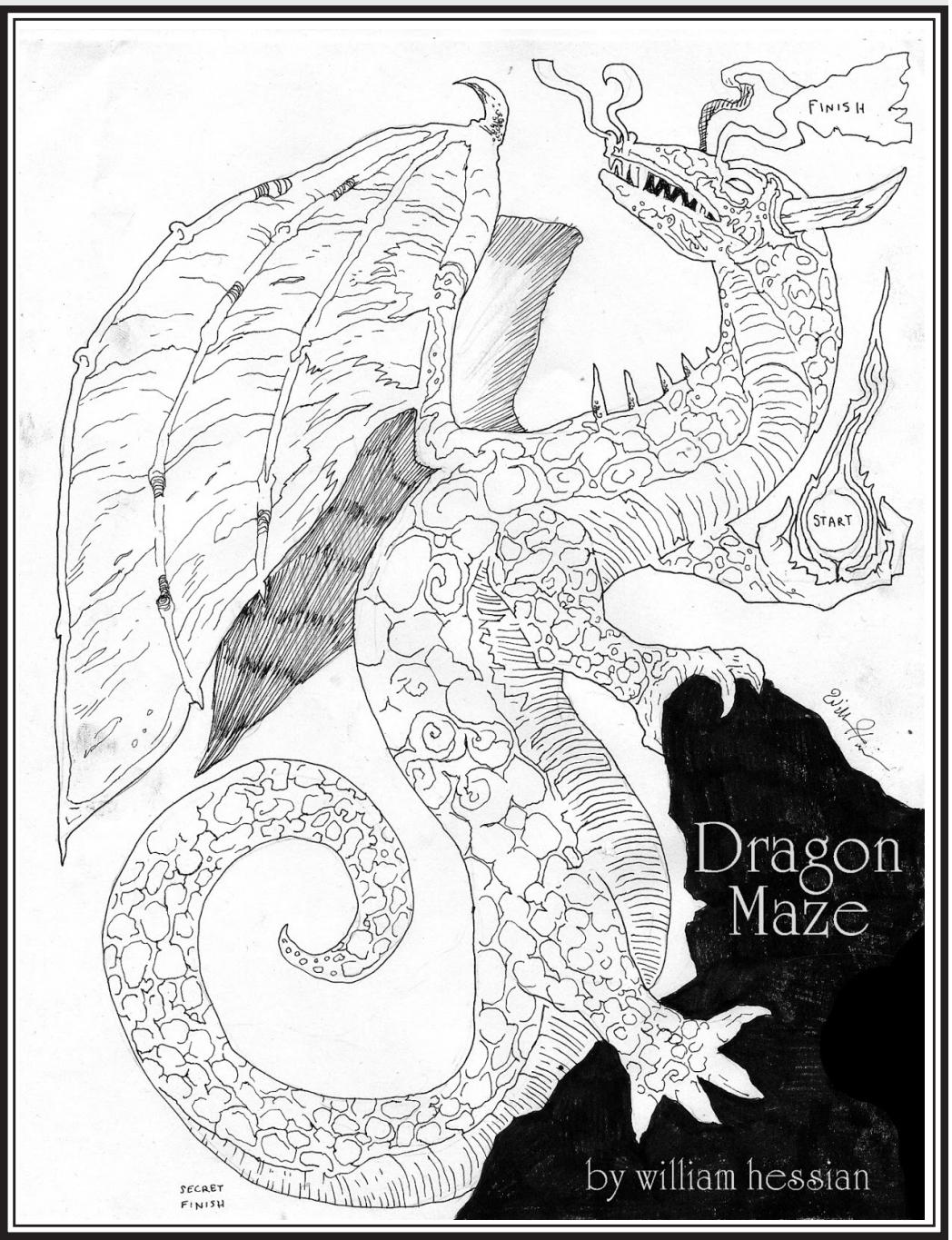
- Write your goals down. Break it down to smaller goals and changes. This way you can track your progress and identify where fail points might be lurking.
- Set deadlines. Start with smaller goals that are easier to achieve, then work your way up to the bigger tasks.
- Reward yourself. Make sure to take the time to reward yourself so you can tangibly see how far you've come!
- Have an accountability partner. Not one that tells you your failure is ok. No, you need someone that will call you out on your excuses.

Backing out is why you are in a rut, so stop backing out. If you are not willing to put in the effort and time then I suggest you accept that your rut is your new home.

BRAINTEASER

Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

Answer: The catcher and the umpire.



X MARKS THE SPOT

C	E	X	I	S	M	I	X	A	M	X	S	T	R	C
A	I	X	E	U	U	E	E	X	X	O	R	Y	X	E
N	A	H	I	S	R	T	W	C	M	A	L	A	X	B
T	O	N	T	A	T	I	S	S	X	E	N	O	N	E
X	E	D	P	N	N	U	I	Y	P	X	M	S	N	X
X	Y	H	O	G	A	N	R	O	X	E	E	Y	E	I
T	I	R	I	H	E	X	X	G	L	N	L	N	X	I
M	N	L	I	X	P	Y	G	S	Y	U	Y	T	A	N
X	R	A	Y	S	F	I	I	O	X	R	X	A	L	D
Y	P	I	C	K	A	X	X	R	E	I	O	X	F	E
S	A	N	E	X	A	P	E	X	H	N	A	X	E	X
T	A	E	L	X	X	N	Y	R	A	L	N	A	L	X
L	O	X	E	N	O	M	A	N	I	A	O	X	E	N
V	S	A	I	H	P	I	X	E	R	F	N	I	S	Y
X	Y	L	O	G	R	A	P	H	O	F	F	S	X	L

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

APEX
AXE
EPOXY
FLAXEN
HEXYL
INDEX
LARYNX
LYNX
MAXI
ORYX
OXEN
PICKAX
POX
SYNTAX
TAXI
XALAM
XANTHIC
XAXIS
XEBEC
XENAS
XENIAL
XENISMOS
XENIUM
XENOMANIA
XENON
XENURIN
XERAPHIM
XERIFF
XESTURGY
XIPHIAS
XIPHODON
XOANON
XRAY
XWING
XYLEM
XYLOGRAPH
XYRIS
XYST
XYSTUS

CRYPT-O-GRAM

Here's how it works: A R C T I C D R A G O N
is B S D U J D E S B H P O

One letter stands for another. In this example the letter B stands for the letter A so all the Bs stand for AS, Ds stand for C, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, and word length are all clues. The code letters are different for every puzzle.

g x j s j x z s f c : n x p l r p i i s g j z u j p q j u x g u z g x j

n x p l c u g q f b s z j u g q j u x g – j u g n a p b b d q

HINTS D=H N=Y

PUN & PUN AGAIN

Long fairy tales have a tendency to dragon.

What did the grape say when it got crushed? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

Why was Dumbo sad? He felt irrelephant.

I knew a guy who collected candy canes, they were all in mint condition.

Two windmills are standing in a wind farm. One asks, "What's your favorite kind of music?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."

SUDOKU

Fill the grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3 x 3 section contains all of the digits 1 through 9.

8	2			5				
5							8	1
	9					6		5
9	8			3	7			
		3	9				1	
			6	2				
7	3			1			5	
	1	5	4	7	2	9		
							7	

Showcases continued from page 1

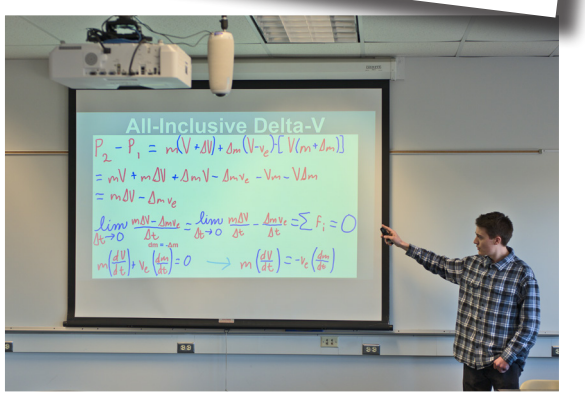
pete in every phase of the Showcase. First, not every application is accepted. Then, at the Showcase event itself, students are evaluated as they present their work to an audience of students and students' families, as well as staff and faculty. Ultimately the faculty on the Student Showcase Committee pick several winners.

This year's presentations were diverse, but each was a powerful reminder of the good work our students are capable of. Peter Barela presented on the negative impacts of having an isolated capital city. In particular, he focused on Juneau. He talked about the costs and benefits of moving the capital from Juneau. As the Showcase began earlier than anticipated, Peter's presentation ended with plenty of time before the next student was scheduled to start. This gave the audience plenty of time to ask questions, all of which Peter answered quickly and capably.

Andrew Mattson presented on calculating delta-v using integration. Andrew originally did this work for a calculus class, but his interest in the topic apparently came from Kerbal Space Program, a spaceflight simulation game.

Jennifer Langley and Ainsleigh Noyce presented on the interprofessional education of nurses and occupational therapists. They capably showed the importance of bringing complementary professions together for education and training, a practice all too rare in American education.

Rebekah Watkins's presentation looked at the connection between microorganisms and carbon release and capture in the Arctic. As climate change is one of the great catastrophes facing the world, her work in the area was very welcome in this reporter's eyes.



Enjoy the Journey

Sophia, the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragon, is dedicated to the well-being of Mat-Su College students, staff, and faculty. In this program you will find a number of Dragon-approved events and activities specifically designed to help you cope with stress, rise to challenges, and take good care of yourself along the way. If you are preparing for a health-related career, many of these events will round out your academic preparation for working with clients or patients in the future.

So travel along with Sophia to the four destinations for well-being:

Awareness of good mental health for yourself and others

Balance between school, work, family, and self-care

Connection to campus, community, friends, and family

Off the Beaten Path, expanding your horizons by trying something new

Check the Journey website weekly for full activity descriptions and updates. All events are free.

Good luck on your journey and best wishes for a happy and healthy semester!

The Journey of Journey

By Jaclyn Cabales

Last semester, I had the privilege of serving on the Journey team at Mat-Su College. Journey's inception at Mat-Su College dates back to Fall of 2017 with grant funding. Since then, there has been numerous events and activities to support students, staff, faculty and community members for all things health and wellness related.

Since Journey's inception, there have been many activities and events fostered on campus. Some of the events include: Meet the Clubs, Alaska Avalanche Safety, Zumba, Nutrition, Herbalism, NCBI Training, Yoga, Director's Walks, Meditation, Guided Imagery, Overcoming Implicit Bias, Bringing in the Bystander Training (Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Prevention), Earth Day Topics, Diabetes discussions, Appreciation Letters, Self-Care, Essential Oils, Traditional Healing, and Gardening in Alaska. While these activities are geared toward students, staff and faculty, there are select events that are open to the community. When a community event is offered, it is highlighted in social media as well as other marketing means such as sending flyers to various community contacts.

participation and interest in Journey events will continue to grow

Stay tuned for the announcement of Fall 2022 Activities on the matsu.alaska.edu/journey website. It is our hope that participation and interest in Journey events will continue to grow as we start to implement more in-person events starting Fall 2022. Feel free to contact, Jaclyn at jacabales@alaska.edu for event information and ideas.

NEW CLASSROOM SIGNAGE

Campus Technical Services recently began installing e-ink door signs throughout campus. These new signs wirelessly sync to a master calendar every 15 minutes. They only show the current day's events, too, making it easy to see at a glance what a room's being used for.

Get involved with YOUR paper!

The Mat-Su Monitor is open to students of all experience levels. A paper like ours always needs writers, artists, graphic designers, advertisement coordinators, photographers, and more (maybe you can contribute something we haven't even thought of)!

Meetings: Weekly in person and ZOOM

TELL UA

IT'S TIME

TO INVEST IN

EDUCATORS!

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ALASKA'S STUDENTS DESERVE BETTER!

- **Faculty have had a single 1% raise in six years despite inflation and rising cost of living**
- **3% increases in faculty wages (or current consumer price index) would benefit our families and local economies**
- **Better wages would help us retain quality faculty**

SEND A LETTER TO THE BOR AND PRES. PITNEY

UA FACULTY DESERVE

INVESTMENT ★ COMMITMENT ★ RESPECT

Backpacks continued from page 1

agencies in the community, students became passionately aware of the needs of Mat-Su's children and teens struggling with homelessness, in situations of crisis and transition, placed in foster care, and those in need. They observed children and teens who were rushed from their homes with onlv the clothes thev had on. If they had belongings, most carried them in a trash bag. Students wished to give these children and teens dignity with a gift of care-filled backpacks. A local resource list with contact information for agencies that help youth and families will be tucked into the pocket of each backpack.

Human Service Practicum II students assembling the backpacks.

The Mat-Su College Service-Learning grant was awarded in the amount of $2000. This paid for 100 backpacks filled with age-appropriate treasures, such as fleece blankets, hygiene items, stuffed animals, pop-its, fidget toys, art supplies, books, earbuds, socks, baby care items, and more. Students were given tooth brushes & paste, and floss from a local dentist, items for teens and children's books from local churches, and MEA contributed lanyards and first aid kits. Target continues to work on contributing a gift certificate to purchase items for the backpacks.

Backpacks will soon be disbursed to various agencies and schools in the Mat-Su community. Human Services Practicum II students express their sincere gratitude to the Mat-Su College for the Service-Learning grant and to community donors for helping "put a smile on a child's face by giving them a backpack full of things – something to call their own!"

Government continued from page 4

looked back at the notes, and realized it was something we could do, and it would be fun. The scavenger hunt didn't actually happen until the next semester, but it was successful. Sometime later a secretary/treasurer for student government was hired, and she took a lot of work off the shoulders of the existing members and advisors. Being involved in student government made me look forward to being on campus.

JOE PAVIA-JONES:

I have had the opportunity to serve as the vice-president the first semester and as the President the second. Being able to get to know people around campus and connecting has been amazing. I have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience serving. I am looking forward to next year as we come back to on campus full time. We were able to get a few clubs going this year. As we get more people on campus I would like to see more clubs being created and people joining in. This year we have only a few people in and helping run Student Government. Next year I want to fill all the positions including all ten senators spots. I love having more people participate because it makes it more fun and brings in new ideas. Knowing now what I have learned and how Student Government Council operates. This next year can only get better.

History continued from page 2

had a more professional style. Gone (mostly) were the hand-drawn graphics and handwritten text. In their place, high quality photographs and typed text. Thus, the October 1984 issue was the first to look like a proper newspaper.

The 1985-1986 academic year represented a peak in professional appearance. The October 1985 issue had a new masthead. The text no longer looked typewritten. From November 1985 on, the paper looked even better, with a completely professional design and much brighter and heavier paper. These issues were printed (and probably designed) by Alaska Media North Corp.

LEAN YEARS

The history of the Monitor is one of oscillation between "newsletter" and proper newspaper.

From Fall 1986 to Spring 1989, the Monitor returned to its "newsletter" origins, printing on letter paper on campus. But at least the Monitor embraced the era of computers. Instead of typewritten text and hand-drawn graphics, these issues appear to have be produced on a computer. The best testament to this is the rudimentary low-resolution clip art.

The Monitor was apparently defunct for the 1989-1990 school year. When it resumed publication in the 1990-1991 school year, it was under the title of Perspective. The only extant issue (April 1991) was printed on campus at the peculiar size of 7"x8.5".

After April 1991, there's no record of students putting out another issue until March 1993. At this time, Student Government president Mark Ewing revived the paper (Menerey, 1995). The original name of Monitor was kept, although a March 1993 issue billed itself as The New Mat-Su Monitor. That change didn't take. A change of name to simply MSC Monitor happened in the June 1995 issue. This change would last; every issue up to February 2009 (when the original name was reasserted) is titled either MSC Monitor or just Monitor.

From March 1993 to at least October 1998, the Monitor was a simple letter-sized affair, designed and printed at the college. A 1995 article noted gave some insight into how the paper was funded and produced at this time:

"The Monitor is currently funded by student fees funneled through Student Government, as it was when Ewing resurrected it. However, Student Government does not RUN the paper and does not decide what it does or does not print. Because the paper uses the same office, computer and supplies many people are under the impression that it does."

We are fortunate to have found in the Monitor files a sticky-note from 1997. It tallies how many issues of the Monitor were distributed, and where. This gives us some idea of the Monitor's scope at this time. For this particular issue, there were 470 copies. Of these, 280 were distributed across campus, either in racks or in the mailboxes of faculty. 45 were mailed out. 100 were distributed in the community. The remaining 45 copies were filed or used for sundry purposes.

After October 1998, the Monitor disappeared. While at least one issue of a MSC Student Government Newsletter came out in the fall of 1999, it wasn't until February 2000 that the Monitor reappeared, still in 8.5"x11" form, this time with the triumphant headline "WE'RE BACK!"

From October 2000 to November 2001, the Monitor was printed in newspaper format by the Anchorage Daily News.

January 2002 saw another return to letter size and on-campus production. The front page article announces a "new semester, a new editor, and a new newspaper format" — but most of all a change in direction. Linking to the Monitor website, the editor declared "at this point and time, the MSC Monitor will be primarily web based." Though the website had existed for at least a year, and exists to this day, the Monitor seems to have never really made a full move online. Print issues — most of which had a message saying the issue was also available online — continued to come out regularly until at least December 2002.

A RETURN TO FORM

Come Fall 2003, there was no Monitor as such. The local Frontiersman stepped in to help students once again resurrect the paper:

During the fall semester of 2003 Anya Petersen-Frey, an adjunct professor at Mat-Su College who writes part time for the Frontiersman, in conjunction with Kari Sleight, publisher of the Frontiersman, and Frank Ameduri, then editor of the Frontiersman, approached Mat-Su College administrators about starting a partnership to create a student paper. Pete Praetorius, an English and Communication Professor at Mat-Su College, was tapped as a faculty advisor for the paper.

"For the future success of our paper we need to make sure we have students educated in journalism and all facets of the newspaper," Kari Sleight said. "In addition, I believe very strongly in the newspaper business and the role we provide in a community; having the college have a voice of their own was a very strong motivator in the decision" (Shepler, 2005).

With the support of the Frontiersman, students and staff put out a 16 page paper called On Campus. This was inserted into the Frontiersman as a supplement. As with Perspective almost 15 years earlier, On Campus dropped the Monitor name. Even so, it was the campus's student paper; all content was written by students and staff. Students even did some of the layout work. But there was still a lot of work to be done by our partners at the Frontiersman:

Once the articles have been written the Frontiersman provides the Mat-Su Monitor Staff access to their facilities and their expertise. Students, with the help of Frontiersman staff, do the layout for the Monitor at the Frontiersman facilities; however, this is where our involvement ends. Currently the Frontiersman provides all of the ads for the Monitor as well as incurring all of the costs for printing the paper (Shepler, 2005).

The Spring 2004 issue of the Monitor marked a return to the Monitor and a standalone format. Except for some initial stumbles — the next two issues (Fall 2004 and Spring 2005) were four page inserts into the Frontiersman — the Monitor has retained this standalone newspaper format right down to the present day. Over the next few years, the Monitor students learned how to run a paper on their own. Judging from appearances of some 2006 issues, all of the layout must've been done by students. Over the next few years, students took over funding the paper (with help from the Mat-Su College Student Government Council). As of this writing (April 2022), the Monitor is produced and funded entirely by contributors on the Mat-Su College campus. We rely on our longtime partners at the Frontiersman only for printing.

CONCLUSION

In 44 years, the Monitor has produced at least 180 issue. (That's what they have in the library). This has been possible because of the shared work of dozens of faculty advisors and students editors, plus hundreds of student contributors.

Our rich past is no guarantee of future success. We need you to step up and help as so many others have over the last 44 years! Send us your suggestions, your stories; come to our meetings; take on the many roles we have for students.

For information on getting involved in the Monitor, see the Mat-Su Monitor club page.

SOURCES

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40 years of Monitor back issues!

https://archive.org/details/mat-su-monitor

Searching through the collection is easy! On the left of the page, enter your search terms in the "search this collection" search box. Beneath the search bar, change your search type to "Text contents." Press enter.

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